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THE RESTORATION OF ISANTHUS BRACHIATUS TO THE FLORA OF CONNECTICUT.

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IN his interesting and illuminating article on John Pierce Brace in RHODORA for May 1914 (vol. 16, no. 185), Mr. C. A. Weatherby wrote concerning Brace's herbarium and his record of plants growing in Litchfield and vicinity:

"The record which we should most like to verify is that of *Isanthus brachiatus*. The claim of that species to admission to the Connecticut flora rests on Mr. Brace's list and a specimen of Charles Wright's at the Gray Herbarium. The latter is marked as from Wethersfield, but the accuracy of its label is under suspicion. Mr. Brace's single specimen is *Isanthus* without doubt; but it was collected in Ohio by Sullivant. One can hardly base a Connecticut record on such evidence; someone will still have to collect *Isanthus*."

Quite by accident the fortune of being the "someone" prophetically referred to by Mr. Weatherby has fallen upon the writer. On the 31st of last August three specimens of what proved to be *Isanthus brachiatus* were collected in Suffield, Conn.; but the collector, not realizing the significance of the find, did not take particular note of the locality nor search for other specimens. After the specimens had been verified at the Gray Herbarium a second visit was made to the locality on September 26. This visit resulted in the discovery of a colony covering an area of a square rod. A killing frost, which had occurred the previous night, had not injured the plants and several were found still in bloom.

These plants were growing on the floor of an abandoned quarry, close to the so-called Enfield Canal, which extends along the west bank of the Connecticut river from just below Thompsonville to Windsor Locks. About three miles north of Windsor Locks two

small quarries were opened about one hundred years ago to supply the rock needed in the construction of the canal and the dam across the river. These quarries have been used little, if any, since that time. In the northernmost of these quarries, in soil that is practically nothing but disintegrated shale, produced by the erosion of the exposed and weathered rocks which form the northern and western sides of the quarry, *Isanthus brachiatus* has found a congenial home.

This finding of *Isanthus* at Suffield, twenty-five miles up the Connecticut river from Wethersfield, removes the taint of suspicion from the label on Wright's Wethersfield specimen and furnishes contributory evidence of the authenticity of Brace's record for this plant in Litchfield in 1822.

SUFFIELD SCHOOL, Suffield, Connecticut.

SPARGANIUM MULTIPEDUNCULATUM IN EASTERN AMERICA.

M. L. FERNALD.

WHEN Dr. A. J. Eames and I¹ studied the genus *Sparganium* in 1907, we recognized *S. simplex* Hudson as occurring from Newfoundland to British Columbia, south to Maine, Vermont, Colorado and California, with a poorly understood var. *multipedunculatum* Morong occurring from Mackenzie to Colorado and California. Characteristic sheets of the American plant which was passing in the East as *S. simplex*, in the West as *S. multipedunculatum* (Morong) Rydberg, were referred to the great student of the group, the late Professor Wladislaw Rothert, and they all brought from him such notes as the following:

"*S. affine* Schnitzl. (*S. angustifolium* Michx. of the American authors), typicum; forma robustior, foliis latis," or "Dubious. Intermediate between *S. simplex* Huds. and *S. affine* Schnitzl., nearer to *S. simplex*" or, on a Californian sheet, "Most of the Western specimens are clearly different from the European *S. simplex* Huds., and intermediate between this and *S. affine* Schnitzl. (*S. angustifolium* Michx. of the American authors), with individually different combinations of the characters of both. I have marked them as 'dubious.' Many of these 'dubious' specimens have been determined by Rydberg as *S. multipedunculatum* Rydb. or 'var. *multipedunculatum* Morong.'

¹ RHODORA, IX. 89 (1907).